CLAIMS

1. A method for monitoring the state of a device within a communication network comprising at least two devices, the network comprising isochronous communication channels transmitting data packets synchronized by a signal emitted by the network emitted in regular time intervals; characterized in that it comprises the following steps:

at the level of a first device desiring to be monitored:

- emission (7.3) by the device being monitored of data packets on a specified isochronous channel in response to the signal emitted regularly by the network;

at the level of a second device (ICCU):

- monitoring (7.4) of the emissions of data packets emitted on the isochronous channel;

- execution of a specified task (7.6), consequent upon the absence of data packets on the isochronous channel between at least two emissions of synchronization signals.

2. The method of management as claimed in claim 1; characterized in that it comprises at the level of the first device a step of emission (7.1) of a monitoring request containing an identifier of the isochronous channel transmitting the packets and a task descriptor; the second device executing the task thus specified by the first device.

3. The method of management as claimed in claim 2; characterized in that the monitoring request specifies a predetermined number of synchronization signals; the second device executing the specified task when no data packet has been detected on the isochronous channel following the detection of the specified number of synchronization signals.

4. The method of management as claimed in claim 2 or 3; characterized in that it comprises a step of emission by the second device of a handling signal following the reception of the monitoring request.

5. The method of management as claimed in any one of the preceding claims; characterized in that the specified task comprises the display of an alert message comprising an identifier of the first device.

6. The method of management as claimed in any one of the preceding claims; characterized in that the specified task comprises a step of analysis of the reason for the stoppage of the emissions of data packets, and a step of executing actions so as to resume the emission of the data packets.

7. A network device (ICCU; 1) charged with monitoring the state of at least one other device of the network, comprising a means of communication with a network (6.4, 6.5) sensing synchronization signals allowing the emission of isochronous data and isochronous data packets emitted on a specified isochronous channel; characterized in that it furthermore comprises a means (6.1, 6.2) for executing a specified task consequent upon the absence of data packets on the isochronous channel between at least two emissions of synchronization signals, the absence of packets being indicative of the state of the device being monitored.

8. The network device as claimed in claim 7 characterized in that it comprises a means (6.4, 6.5) for receiving a monitoring request containing the identifier of the isochronous channel transmitting the packets and a descriptor of the specified task, said identifier of the channel and the descriptor of the task being recorded in a memory of the device (6.3).

9. The network device as claimed in claim 8 characterized in that the monitoring request received specifies a predetermined number of synchronization signals and in that it comprises a counter (6.4, 6.5) of

synchronization signals, the specified task being executed when no data packet has been detected on the isochronous channel following the detection of the specified number of synchronization signals.

10. The network device as claimed in any one of claims 7 to 9 characterized in that it comprises a means of display of an alert message activated by the absence of data packets on the isochronous channel between at least two emissions of synchronization signals.

11. The network device as claimed in any one of claims 8 to 10 under the dependence of claim 8 characterized in that it comprises a means for emitting a handling signal following the reception of a monitoring request.

12. The network device as claimed in claim 11 characterized in that it comprises a means for disabling the handling of a monitoring request, activated when the reception means (6.4, 6.5) with the network senses a signal for handling said request by another device of the network.